

City of Newton – Recreation Commission

Minutes from December 19, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Recreation Chairman John Stiver

Members in attendance:

John Stiver, Marshall Pratt, Terry Abernethy, Mickie Drum, David Shugart, Sandra Waters.

Visitors:

Parks and Recreation Director Carol Stiles.

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the December 19, 2013 meeting were approved as read.

B. Chairman John Stiver welcomed everyone.

C. Sue Jones Estate – 1.2 Million Dollars

Chairman, John Stiver continued the discussion on how to spend the 1.2 million dollar donation with members and staff that were present. The list that will be presented to city council includes the following projects:

Jacob Fork Park

A. Light (2) existing softball fields - **\$250,000 - \$350,000**

B. Disc Golf – 18 holes - **\$25,000**

Playgrounds

A. Additional updated equipment at (4) parks – Southside (\$80,100), Westside/Jaycee (\$40,000), Northside/Broyhill (\$60,000), Central (\$40,000) Jacob Fork Park (\$150,000) = **\$370,100**

B. ½ City and ½ donated monies.

Swimming Pool/Playground Equipment

A. Playground unit w/pad unit inside swimming pool - **\$15,000**

Shelters

New shelter at Jacob Fork Park/new playground area 30' x 44' (wood) - **\$25,000**

Stage at Yount Park

Hire a planner to create a new Recreation Master Plan - \$25,000.

Jacob Fork Park - \$15,000

A. Pump Track - \$5,000

B. Exercise Bike Trail - \$5,000

C. Flow Track - \$5,000

A motion was made by Terry Abernethy, seconded by Marshall Pratt and unanimously approved by the recreation commission the above projects for the 1.2 Million - Sue Jones Estate.

D. East Newton/Head Start Building Project

The Director told the commission the last Master Plan Study that was done back in 1989 which at that time did not recommend keeping any of the East Newton/Head Start facilities due to lack of participation. The Commission is still considering an updated Master Plan to assist with grants for this and future projects.

E. Northside Tennis Courts

The Recreation Commission toured Northside Park during one of its regular meetings on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. At this meeting a discussion was held by the Director and commission members on what should be done with the tennis courts due to the poor condition and lack of interest and funds for repairs. The suggested plan was to remove the tennis courts by city staff, install new playground equipment where the courts are, remove the fencing and install it around the new basketball court. The cost for the project would be around \$45,000.

F. Certificate of Appreciation from Fred T. Foard Raiders

Battalion commanders from Fred T. Foard's JROTC presented the department with a framed certified of appreciation for allowing them to use Southside Park to host a fitness and endurance challenge competition between 20 surrounding school teams. Over 200 JROTC members participated in the event and around 75 to 100 spectators attended. Lt. Crowe mentioned the use of Southside Park for the next mid Atlantic Regional Contest in March.

G. Membership

The Commission voted on a new chairperson and vice-chairperson for the Recreation Commission. After some discussion Kyle Smith was selected as Chairperson and Terry Abernethy as Vice-Chairperson. The Director asked staff and commission to be looking for new member to serve on the commission for the next three years.

H. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2014

I. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.